ernment of West Bengal has not altered the situation as far as functioning of the Company is concerned.

Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has no information about non-functioning of the Company. Reserve Bank of India had received some complaints about non-payment to certificate holders even after maturity which it has sent to the Company for taking necessary corrective action.

Recruitment through Employment Exchanges

819. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is compulsory and mandatory for all the establishments whether Government or semi-Government, public or private where 10 or more employees are working, the recruitment of workers is to be done through Employment Exchanges;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how many establishments have been prosecuted for not adhering to the above procedure; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the management of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, has recruited a number of employees directly during the last 3/5 years; if so, what action has been taken against the management for violation of Government Rules and norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) There is no legal or mandatory provision for recruitment of persons through employment exchanges in any of these categories of establishments. However, under administrative instructions of the Central Government, recruitment to certain specified categories of posts in Central Government offices and Central Public Sector Undertakings are required to be made through Employment Exchanges. Some of the State Governments have also issued similar instructions for recruitment in their State Government Organisations.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to Parts (a) and (b) above.

(d) Sir Ganga Ram Hospital is a private establishment and as such they are under no obligation to recruit persons through employment exchanges. In view of this, the question of taking any action against the Hospital management, does not arise.

Affairs of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi

820. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations have started between the management of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Employees' Union (Registered and Recognised) New Delhi, for which a strike notice dated 21st June, 1986 had been served by the Hospital Employees Union;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken to settle the dispute; and

(c) how many meetings have been held so far between the Management and the Union to arrive at an agreement for the demands listed in the Charter of demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) According to information received from the Delhi Administration the appropriate authority under the Industrial disputes Act, 1947, a copy of the strike notice dated 21-6-1986

served by Sir Ganga Ram Employees Union on the Hospital management was received by the Delhi Administration. The strike notice raised a 27-point charter of general demands relating among others, to regularisation of contract workers and temporary employees, staff quarters for nurses and other employees, overtime allowance, reinstatement of employees discharged from service during 1966 to 1986, free medical ambulance facilities for family members of the employees, etc. On receiving the copy of the strike notice, the Conciliation Machinery intervened on 16th July, 1986. Till 25-7-1986, four meetings have been held in an effort to resolve the dispute. Conciliation efforts are continuing.

Delay in the issue of passports by the Regional Passport Office, Ernakulam

821. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for passports are pending clearance at the Regional Passport Office, Ernakulam;

(a) how many applications for pasding for (i) more than three months and (ii) for more than six months;

(c) how many complaints have been received against the office with regard to the issue and renewal of passports during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) how many among the staff are there for more than three years; and

(e) whether Government propose to transfer those staff who have been posted there for more than three years to improve the service; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K R. NARAYANAN): (a) 12685 applications for passports were pending clearance as on 30-6-1986 at the Regional Passport Office, Ernakulam.

(b) (i) 2060 applications for passports were pending for more than three months and (ii) 60 applications for passports were pending for more than six months.

(c) Number of complaints received against the office with regard to the issue and ronewal of passports during the last three years as follows:—

Year	Issue of passports	Renewal of passports
1983 . . .	5	2
1984 . . .	6	4
1985 . . .	14	3
1986 . . . (Up to 30th June, 1986)	6	1

(d) One group 'A' officer, 50 group 'C' officials and 7 group 'D' officials are working in the Regional Passport office, Ernakulam for over three years.

(e) No, Sir; a fixed tenure of three years has not been laid down for transfer of all staff categories in the Recruitment Rules of the Central Passport Organisation. Group 'A' and 'B' Gazetted Officers are generally transferred from one passport office to another after completion of three years stay at one station, except due to exigencies of public service or on compassionate grounds. Moreover, officers superannuating within a period of three yearss are retained/ transferred as far as possible near their home-town. As regards Group 'C' clerical staff, they are generally transferred on their promotion or due to reduction of posts in a particular office or when it becomes necessary to rransfer them in public interest.

Bank dacoities in Bombay

822. SHRI K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of bank dacoities which took place in Bombay since March, 1986;